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Potato Stocks



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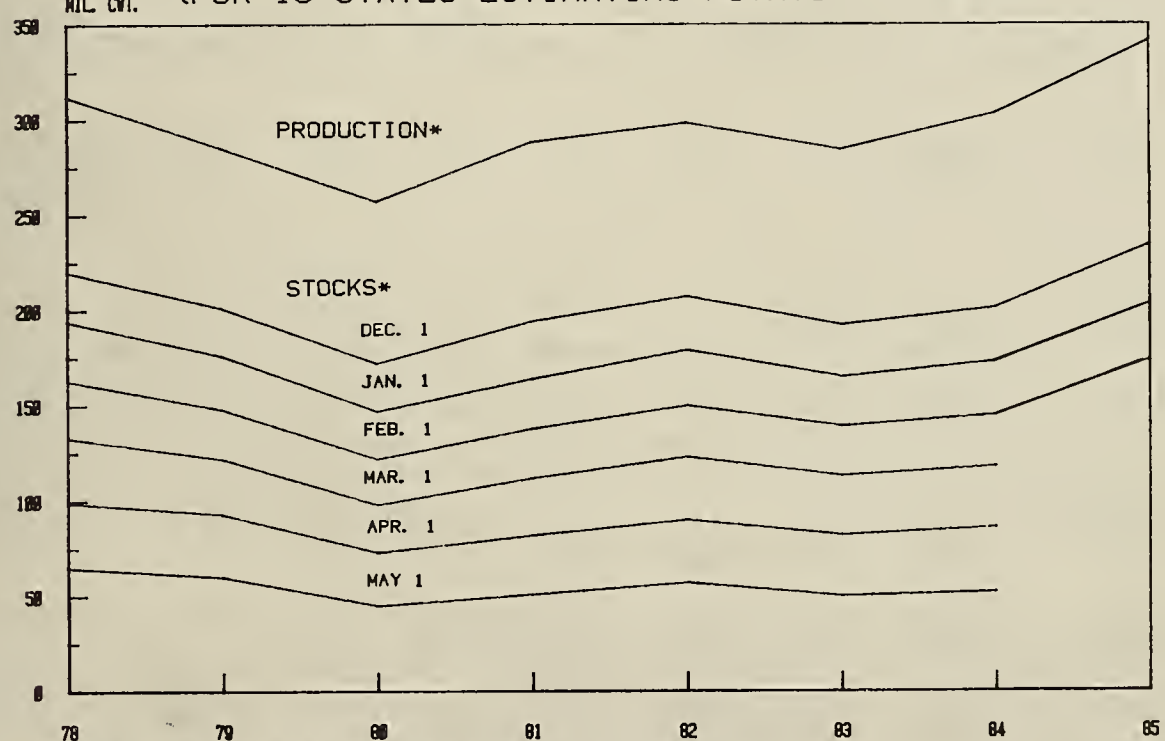
POTATO STOCKS UP 17 PERCENT

Potato Stocks on February 1, 1986 totaled 170 million cwt, up 17 percent from last year and 22 percent above two years ago. Frost damage suffered during harvest last fall continues to plague storage operators in Western States. Shrinkage and sorting losses to date in 5 States (Idaho, Montana, Colorado, Oregon and California) are running 89 percent above last year. This means a lower than normal percentage of production will be available for sale this year.

(Comments continued on page 4)

FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND STOCKS

(FOR 15 STATES ESTIMATING POTATO STOCKS)



*PRODUCTION BY CROP YEAR. STOCKS BY MONTHS FOLLOWING HARVEST.

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* should be directed to Crop Reporting Board Publications, Room 5829 - *
* South Building, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250 (Phone (202) 447-4021). *

* NOTE: Stocks are defined as the quantity remaining in storage for all*
* purposes and uses, including shrinkage and waste and other *
* losses that occur after the date of each report. Sales of fall*
* potatoes for all purposes generally account for about 90 per- *
* cent of the total fall production. Shrinkage, loss and home *
* use account for the remaining 10 percent. However, this year *
* losses are running much higher than normal. *

TABLE 1. FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND STOCKS, 15 MAJOR STATES

CROP YEAR	PRODUCTION	DEC 1	JAN 1	FEB 1	MAR 1	APR 1	MAY 1
	1,000 CWT						
1975	266,422	181,720	156,220	129,710	102,850	70,970	
1976	294,978	198,630	172,230	142,030	112,830	81,130	
1977	295,421	202,550	175,300	147,930	119,850	88,680	
1978	311,981	219,850	193,520	162,980	132,570	99,250	64,830
1979	284,940	200,820	176,020	147,910	121,720	92,550	59,535
1980	256,518	172,030	147,010	122,065	97,680	72,660	44,546
1981	287,710	193,610	164,380	137,820	111,780	82,270	50,760
1982	298,031	206,525	178,980	150,200	122,500	90,105	57,305
1983	284,344	192,150	165,330	138,900	112,730	81,740	50,365
1984	303,384	201,410	173,380	144,760	118,400	86,440	52,465
1985	340,792	233,775	201,300	169,810			

TABLE 2. POTATOES PROCESSED 1/, EIGHT STATES, 1984 AND 1985 CROPS

STATE	STORAGE SEASON	TO DEC 1	TO JAN 1	TO FEB 1	TO MAR 1	TO APR 1	TO MAY 1	ENTIRE SEASON
1,000 CWT								
IDAHO AND MALHEUR CO., OREG	1984-85	19,000	24,310	29,200	34,010	39,510	44,650	57,410
	1985-86	17,830	22,980	26,660				
MAINE 2/	1984-85	1,820	2,410	3,015	3,520	4,330	5,185	6,550
	1985-86	2,215	2,920	3,805				
WASH AND OTHER AREAS, OREG	1984-85	20,745	24,690	29,345	33,560	38,815	43,380	51,670
	1985-86	21,590	25,665	29,450				
OTHER STATES 3/	1984-85	5,695	7,510	9,210	10,930	12,745	14,715	21,005
	1985-86	6,470	7,990	9,900				
TOTAL	1984-85	47,260	58,920	70,770	82,020	95,400	107,930	136,635
	1985-86	48,105	59,555	69,815				

1/ TOTAL QUANTITY RECEIVED AND USED FOR PROCESSING REGARDLESS OF THE STATE IN WHICH THE POTATOES WERE PRODUCED. DOES NOT INCLUDE QUANTITIES USED FOR POTATO CHIPS IN MAINE, MICH, MINN, N DAK, OR WIS. 2/ INCLUDES MAINE GROWN POTATOES ONLY. 3/ MICH, MINN, N DAK, AND WIS.

TABLE 3. FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND STOCKS ON FEBRUARY 1, 1985 AND
FEBRUARY 1, 1986

STATE	CROP OF 1984			CROP OF 1985		
	:			:		
	:			:		
	:			:		
	TOTAL	FEB 1		TOTAL	FEB 1	
	STOCKS	STOCKS		STOCKS	STOCKS	
	PRODUCTION:	FEB 1,	AS % OF	PRODUCTION:	FEB 1,	AS % OF
		1985	PRODUCTION:		1986	PRODUCTION
	1,000 CWT	PERCENT		1,000 CWT	PERCENT	
CALIF	7,280	3,700	51	7,878	2,900	37
COLO	17,225	8,900	52	17,920	11,000	61
IDAHO	86,600	47,500	55	102,515	56,500	55
MAINE	21,360	12,500	59	27,160	16,800	62
MICH	12,540	5,300	42	12,100	5,300	44
MINN	13,775	8,500	62	14,145	8,500	60
MONT	1,924	1,790	93	1,890	1,350	71
NEBR	2,480	1,250	50	2,173	1,250	58
N Y - L I	3,577	700	20	3,870	1,000	26
- UPSTATE	6,630	2,000	30	6,125	1,700	28
N DAK	20,615	10,700	52	23,630	13,200	56
OHIO	2,418	450	19	2,465	300	12
OREG	23,525	11,000	47	26,701	13,300	50
PA	5,160	2,370	46	5,720	2,610	46
WASH	56,925	20,800	37	62,370	25,700	41
WIS	21,350	7,300	34	24,130	8,400	35
15 STATE TOTAL	303,384	144,760	48	340,792	169,810	50

RELIABILITY OF FEBRUARY 1 STOCKS ESTIMATES

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the February 1 stocks estimate is 3.1 percent. This means that the chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 170 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 3.1 percent or approximately 5.2 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 5.3 percent or approximately 9.0 million cwt.

The 10-year (1976-85) record of the differences between the February 1 stocks estimate and the final estimates averaged 3.99 million cwt, ranging from .39 million cwt to 6.17 million cwt. During this 10-year period, the February 1 estimate has been below the final estimate 9 out of 10 years.

TABLE 4. FALL POTATOES: STOCKS BY TYPE AS PERCENT OF TOTAL STOCKS,
FEBRUARY 1, 1986, 11 MAJOR STATES

STATE	POTATO TYPES			
	REDS	WHITES	RUSSETS	TOTAL
	PERCENT			
COLO	6		1/94	100
IDAHO			1/ 2/100	100
MAINE		68	32	100
MICH 4/				
MINN	16	38	46	100
N Y		2/ 3/100		100
N DAK	16	53	31	100
OREG			1/ 2/100	100
PA		2/100		100
WASH			1/ 2/100	100
WIS	3	15	82	100
11 STATE TOTAL:	3	19	78	100

- 1/ INCLUDES SMALL QUANTITIES OF WHITES, LESS THAN 5 PERCENT OF TOTAL.
 2/ INCLUDES SMALL QUANTITIES OF REDS, LESS THAN 5 PERCENT OF TOTAL.
 3/ INCLUDES SMALL AMOUNT OF RUSSETS, LESS THAN 5 PERCENT OF TOTAL.
 4/ NOT PUBLISHED TO AVOID DISCLOSURE OF INDIVIDUAL OPERATIONS.

February stocks in the 15 potato storage States accounted for 50 percent of fall production this season compared with 48 percent last year. Stocks in the 11 major States are 3 percent reds, 19 percent whites, and 78 percent russets.

In the 3 EASTERN STATES, February 1 stocks totaled 22.1 million cwt, 26 percent above last year and 24 percent above two years ago. Maine storages contained 16.8 million cwt, a gain of 34 percent over last year; New York stocks of 2.70 million cwt are at the same level as last year; while Pennsylvania stocks at 2.61 million cwt are up 10 percent.

The 6 CENTRAL STATES stored 37.0 million cwt of potatoes on February 1, 1986, 10 percent above last year and 27 percent above two years ago. Compared with last year, North Dakota stocks are up 23 percent, while Wisconsin storages show a gain of 15 percent. Michigan, Minnesota, and Nebraska are at the same level as last year.

In the six WESTERN STATES, February 1 potato stocks totaled 111 million cwt this year, up 18 percent from last year and 21 percent above two years ago. Idaho storages contained 56.5 million cwt, remaining 19 percent above last year. An estimated 11 percent of Idaho's stocks on hand now are said to be frost damaged. Washington stocks totaled 25.7 million cwt, up 24 percent; Oregon at 13.3 million cwt is up 21 percent; and Colorado at 11.0 million cwt, is up 24 percent from a year ago. California and Montana stored 22 and 25 percent fewer potatoes than a year ago.

DISAPPEARANCE from harvest through January totaled 171 million cwt this season, up 8 percent from last year's 159 million cwt. This includes cumulative losses of 29.2 million cwt this year compared with 21.5 million cwt for the same period last season.

Potato PROCESSING in the 8 processing States to February 1 came to 69.8 million cwt, falling behind last year's 70.8 million cwt. January 1986 processing totaled 10.3 million cwt compared with 11.9 million cwt a year ago.